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PRESS RELEASE

**WILMINGTON MAN SENTENCED TO 108 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR TRANSPORTATION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

James C. Peterson, age 36, of Wilmington, Delaware, was sentenced to 108 months in prison yesterday for transportation of child pornography, in violation of federal law. David C. Weiss, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, made the announcement following the pronouncement of the sentence by United States District Judge Sue L. Robinson.

Peterson also was sentenced to ten years of supervised release, which will commence following his prison term. He also will be required to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction in which he lives, works or attends school.

According to court documents filed in the case and statements made in court, Peterson came to the attention of various law enforcement agencies, including the Delaware State Police and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as he traded child pornography online. On June 5, 2008, the Delaware State Police conducted a search of Peterson's residence that yielded computers and digital media found to contain more than 16,000 still images and 140 videos of child pornography. The Delaware State Police also completed a search of Peterson's AOL accounts, which revealed that he had traded child pornography via email with approximately 40 different individuals. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement had

independently identified Peterson as a trader of child pornography after finding emails containing child pornography on the computer of another child pornography defendant in Indiana.

The investigation also revealed that, for more than two years prior to his arrest, Peterson had been engaging in online conversations with a person who he believed to be a 14-year-old boy from New York. In reality, Peterson was communicating with a Nassau County police detective. Peterson sent numerous computer files containing child pornography to the undercover detective and discussed meeting him in New York and Wilmington to engage in unlawful sexual conduct.

Following his arrest, Peterson told law enforcement officers that they would find numerous images of child pornography on his computer, which he downloaded to a folder labeled "VYB." He explained that this was an abbreviation for "very young boys." Peterson estimated that the youngest child depicted in his collection was about two years old.

In imposing the sentence, Judge Robinson told Peterson, who claimed to have been sexually abused as a child, "you became your childhood's nightmare."

Following the sentencing hearing, Acting United States Attorney David C. Weiss stated, "Prolific traders of hardcore child pornography like Mr. Peterson should expect that they will come to the attention of law enforcement agencies that are working together to identify them. Once identified, they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

This case was investigated by the High Technology Crimes Unit of the Delaware State Police and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. For further information, please contact Assistant United States Attorney Edward J. McAndrew at 302-573-6277, ext. 130.